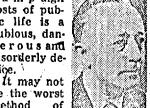
WASSANITIZED PAPPROVED FOR Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R00 AND TIMES HERALD The Case of Sen. Dodd

APR 27 1966

By Roscoe Drummond

finding out, the testimonial dinner to raise funds to cov-

er, betweencampaign costs of public life is a dublous, dangerousand disorderly de-



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method of ing the in- Drummond

come of elected officials who do not have independent forstruck down by public distaste unless rigid safeguards against abuse are imposed by Congress.

The defense of the testimonial-dinner technique is this:

That the salaries and allowances given to Senators and Representatives are inadequate to take care of the ... ant. costs of public life.:

elective 'office' That should not, in effect, be substantially limited to the wealthy.

That there is less obligation on the part of the Congressman if through a testimonial dinner many contribute small sums rather than a few giving him large

That the testimonial-dinner gifts to Congressmen are a pretty common practice, not something recently thought up by the friends of Sen. Dodd.

Dodd, whom I have found to be a most honorable man, to have the news of his three big Connecticut testimonial dinners come out as if they involved scandal?

The main reasons are that few of the donors really know to what exact purpose they are contributing the money, that neither the contributors nor the public. know how the money is being spent, and that there are no ground rules as to the ethical ways the funds can properly be used. " /

AS SEN. Thomas J. Committee come up with Dodd (D-Conn.) is painfully some positive reforms while it is looking into whether Sen. Dodd has been guilty of or the beneficiary of any improper practices. I would. say that the very minimum reforms should be these:

> 1-Full public disclosure of the financial interests and income by all members of Congress and top congressional employes-a measure long advocated by Sen. Olifford P. Case (R-N, J.).

2-It should be mandatory that the precise fundraising purpose of every testimonial dinner be publicly and fully stated.

3-The purposes for which such funds can be used should be set out and limited.

4—Funds so used should be periodically and publicly accounted for and certified by an outside public account-

IF THESE rules had been in effect, Sen. Dodd would not be so embarrassed by the disclosures about his testimonial dinners. He is one of numerous similar beneficiaries in Congress. One labor leader reported that he receives a minimum of 100 invitations a year for political testimonial dinners and that his union keeps a special fund earmarked for such contributions.

Will the Senate Ethics Committee come to grips with the needed reforms and, even if it does, will Congress enact them into law?

Answer: Only if there is WHY, THEN, is it proving a strong voter demand. As embarrassing to Sen. 1. Sen. Case has often pointed gout, legislatures are very reluctant to police themselves -however much they enjoy policing others.

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